

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A method for producing iturin A and its homologues, comprising cultivating a *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues in a liquid medium containing 2 mass% or more of soybean powder or its extract to allow the microbe to accumulate iturin A and its homologues in the medium in a concentration of 1.5 g/L or more.

2. (original): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.

3. (previously presented): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that has substantially no ability to produce surfactin.

4. (original): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein 0 to 3 mass% of phosphates, in terms of K_2HPO_4 , is added to the liquid medium.

5. (previously amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

6. (previously amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

7. (previously presented): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

8. (original): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid medium containing 2 mass% or more of soybean powder or its extract contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of maltose, starch syrup, soluble starch, dextrin, glucose, sucrose, and fructose.

9. (previously amended): A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

10. (currently amended): A solid containing iturin A and its ~~homologue~~ homologues obtained by drying the culture as claimed in claim 9.

11. (currently amended): An agent for preventing plant diseases, comprising the culture containing iturin A and its ~~homologue~~ homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

12. (currently amended): A method for preventing a plant disease, comprising using in an unpurified form the culture containing iturin A and its ~~homologue~~ homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

13. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.

14. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

15. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

16. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

17. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Application: 10/528,773

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18. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

19. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

20. (new): A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 2 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.